

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



Revised\*

February 3, 2015

General Education Self-Study Committee

Stephen Altaner, Associate Professor, Geology, Co-Chair  
CL Cole, Professor, Media and Cinema Studies, Co-Chair  
Stephanie Foote, Professor, English  
Joyce Griggs, Associate Director, School of Music  
Jennifer Hardesty, Professor, Human and Community Development  
Huseyin Leblebici, Professor, Business Administration\*  
Megan Lindgren, undergraduate student, Economics  
Liang Liu, Associate Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Stephen Notaro, Lecturer, Kinesiology and Community Health  
John Wieting, graduate student, Computer Science  
Kathy Martensen, Office of the Provost, *ex officio*

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for serving on the General Education Self-Study Committee, which is one of the high-priority initiatives that has emerged from the ongoing Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education. Professors Stephen Altaner and CL Cole have graciously agreed to co-chair your committee.

We ask that all members of your committee read the *First-Round Report* of the Campus Conversation on Undergraduate Education ([http://provost.illinois.edu/docs/C-CUE\\_FA13\\_Report.pdf](http://provost.illinois.edu/docs/C-CUE_FA13_Report.pdf)), to be informed on campus thinking so far.

The task of your committee is to examine General Education as it now exists on campus from both broad and close perspectives. Specifically we ask that you:

1. Request, review, and analyze institutional data on General Education course offerings and student enrollments for the past five years. Through your analysis, you should seek to understand:
  - a. What is the distribution of student enrollments across the six hundred or so courses certified for General Education credit? What is the distribution of section sizes in which our on-campus students fulfill their Gen Ed requirements?
  - b. How do the distributions of grades in Gen Ed courses compare to the grade distributions of undergraduates in other courses on campus?
  - c. What is the frequency with which various Gen Ed courses are offered, and how does that compare with other information about these courses?
  - d. Who is teaching Gen Ed courses (tenure-stream faculty, specialized faculty, teaching assistants), and how does this staffing information correlate to section size or other course data?

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- e. What portion of Gen Ed courses are delivered in an online format, versus face to face? When online sections are available during the academic year, how do the enrollments compare to face-to-face sections of the same course?
  - f. What fraction of Gen Ed course requirements for Illinois students are fulfilled by courses taken at another institution and transferred in, or by credit from Advanced Placement exams or International Baccalaureates? If possible, separate the data for students who join Illinois as first-time freshmen from students who start at another institution and transfer in.
2. Identify a modest number of existing Gen Ed courses on our campus that you would hold up as exemplars that other faculty and academic units should learn from. Courses may be exemplary through their pedagogy, learning outcomes, or student engagement. Articulate the strengths of these exemplars, identify themes that connect multiple courses, and recommend a strategy for sharing this information with the campus. Please cast your nets broadly when seeking these exemplary courses.

Assistant Provost Kathy Martensen will provide staff support for your committee, and will facilitate your data requests with the Division of Management Information and the Office of the Registrar. Vice Provost Charles Tucker and Provost Fellow Lauren Goodlad will be available to discuss your committee's charge and hear the results of your work. Please provide your final report by May 5, 2015.

Again, thank you for contributing to the campus through this effort.

Sincerely,



Ilesanmi Adesida

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

- c: Charles Tucker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Innovation  
Lauren Goodlad, Provost Fellow for Undergraduate Education  
Kristi Kuntz, Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Policies  
Amy Edwards, Assistant Provost and Director, Division on Management Information  
Rod Hoewing, Interim Registrar